

Ideas to help you write a poem for the Poet-Tree

Try one of the poetic forms (or any other you like)

hai-ku -- a Japanese poem of seventeen syllables, in three lines of five, seven, and five, traditionally evoking images of the natural world. As a rule, each haiku must have a kigo (a word connoting a season). The kigo is a reflection of the Japanese people's sensitivity to the changing seasons, love of nature and respect for form.

Example:

An old silent pond...

A frog jumps into the pond,

splash! Silence again.

--Basho (1644-1694)

Epistle (pronounced e-PISS-ul) is a **poetic** form that dates back to ancient Rome and to the Bible. It is a **poem** written in the form of a letter. The term **epistle** comes from the Latin word *epistola*, which means letter. **Epistle** was used to express love, philosophy, religion and morality.

An elegy is a **poem** of mourning; this is often the **poet** mourning one person, but the definition also includes Thomas Gray's '**Elegy** Written in a Country Churchyard', which mourns all the occupants of that churchyard, and looks into the future to mourn the **poet's** own death.

A Poetic Fragment is simply part of a poem. The modernist poets reinvented the fragment as an acutely self-conscious mode of writing that breaks the flow of time, leaving gaps and tears, lacunae.

In **Acrostic poems**, the first letters of each line are aligned vertically to form a word. The word often is subject of the poem.

Example

Elegantly and efficiently shaped

Good to eat

Great fun to find at Easter

Smooth shelled

Quatrains are **short rhyming poems** made up of four lines. The rhyming pattern can be AABB or ABAB. You can string 2 or more quatrains together to create longer poems.